

STATINTL

Spy: Easy as Pie to Pluck Pentagon Plums

Washington, Nov. 29 (UPI)—A Soviet spy found his job in the United States so easy that he once slipped U.S. secrets to a Russian agent in the Pentagon.

His method of checking a rumored "surprise" U.S. action for Moscow was just as easy: He drove to the Pentagon to find out if the generals were engaged in any kind of "hectic activity." They were doing business as usual, so he informed Moscow that no surprise was in the offing.

These and other tricks of the spy trade were revealed today when the Senate Internal Security subcommittee made public hitherto secret testimony for Swedish federal police by Stig Wennerstrom, 57, retired Swedish air force colonel.

A Spying Cinch

He was sentenced in Sweden last June to life imprisonment after it was discovered he had spied for the Soviet Union since 1948—even against his own country.

Wennerstrom's testimony showed that he had remarkably little difficulty in obtaining U.S. secrets during his service in Washington as Swedish air attache from April, 1952, to May, 1957.

He testified that he reported to Moscow technical development of U.S. aircraft, rockets, robots, bombsights, radar, cameras and "the electronic microinstruments."

"The possibilities of obtaining publications in this special field which was of interest to me were almost fantastic," he testified.

As Swedish air attache he was able to visit U.S. military installations all over the country, but he found his biggest successes at U.S. industrial plants where he represented himself as a potential buyer for Sweden.

Rarely Challenged

At industrial plants he was known to the top officials, and this impressed those of lower

rank. He said he rarely was asked if he was authorized to see secret material at defense plants. "They did not ask for any verification," he said.

Most of his information was put on microfilm and slipped to his Soviet contact in Washington by means of a handshake—often at diplomatic receptions and at least once in the Pentagon.

"One was not watched so much in Washington because the diplomatic group was exceedingly large and the resources and the points to be watched were very few considering the size of the group," he said.

Cultivated Women

Wennerstrom also observed that he was advised before coming to the United States to cultivate the women more than the men.

"If it is desired to have closer contacts in the U.S.A.," he said, "it is necessary in most cases to include the women, (who) have a much greater influence over the men than we realize."

Even after Wennerstrom returned to Sweden in 1957 he was able to obtain valuable information for Russia. In 1958, when then President Eisenhower dispatched U.S. military forces to Lebanon, Wennerstrom was able to notify Moscow in advance, because he was visiting a U.S. Air Force officer in Germany when the officer was suddenly ordered to Turkey.

Slip Almost Nipped Him

Washington, Nov. 29 (UPI)—"Carelessness of the Americans" came close to ruining the espionage career of convicted Soviet spy Stig Wennerstrom almost before it began, according to the former Swedish air force officer.

He said he was named as an American informant in a U.S. Embassy radio message sent in a code already broken by the Russians. The Soviets decided, however, that he was loyal to them.

"My first reaction was one of unheard of bitterness against the Americans for not being able to protect themselves better," Wennerstrom commented.